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**ACTION**  
**OCA 87-1113**

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS**  
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	ACTION	INFO
1. D/OCA <b>XX</b>		<b>X</b>
2. DD/Legislation	<b>X</b>	
3. DD/Senate Affairs		<b>X</b>
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5. DD/House Affairs		<b>X</b>
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10. Constituent Inquiries Officer		
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**SUSPENSE**

**17 SEPT 87**  
Date

**Action Officer:**

**Remarks:**

**14 SEPT 87**  
Name/Date

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**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503**

87-3913

September 9, 1987

**LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM**

**SPECIAL**

**TO: Legislative Liaison Officer**

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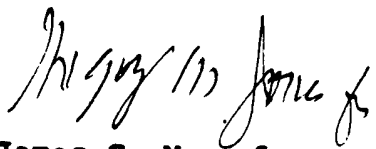
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**SUBJECT:** Department of Agriculture proposed report on H.R. 1615 --  
Government Information Agency.

The Office of Management and Budget requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President, in accordance with OMB Circular A-19.

Since this report simply reflects previous agencies views, we will clear it unless objections are raised by Thursday, September 15, 1987.

Questions should be referred to Constance J. Bowers (395-3457), the legislative analyst in this office.

  
**James C. Murr for  
Assistant Director for  
Legislative Reference**

**Enclosures**

cc: Penny Jacobs  
Rob Veeder  
David Haun  
Jack Fellows

Tim Sprehe  
Gene McAllister  
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Office of Science & Technology Policy		



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Honorable Doug Walgren  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Science,  
Research and Technology  
Committee on Science, Space, and  
Technology  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your request for a report on H.R. 1615, a bill "To establish the Government Information Agency to enhance the economic, scientific, and technological position of the United States by acquiring, processing, and distributing the fruits of federally performed and federally sponsored research, development, and analysis, and for other purposes."

This Department opposes enactment of this legislation.

The bill would mandate the establishment of a Government Information Agency (GIA) as a new independent agency and transfer to it all functions of any Federal agency that relate to the sale or distribution of information to the public.

The GIA would represent an additional intermediary between providers and users of information. Losses in translation that can occur when information passes through several intermediaries are well known, and to the extent such losses can be minimized it would seem beneficial to do so. The USDA is more familiar with and able to meet the information needs of its particular clientele than any new intermediary could possibly be. Thus, we believe H.R. 1615 would place an impediment in the path through which mission agencies provide information to their clientele.

Similarly, the USDA Agricultural Research Service communicates the latest achievements of its research scientists to agribusiness firms through a computerized information delivery system called TEKTRAN. Brief interpretive summaries of research results are accompanied by the names and phone numbers of principal scientists involved. Recipients of the information are encouraged to contact the principal scientists directly for further details. Feedback from industrial contacts indicates great satisfaction with this system. We do not believe interjection of an intermediary independent agency would maintain the present efficiency and effectiveness and its acceptance by our agribusiness clients could be less than total.

Honorable Doug Walgren

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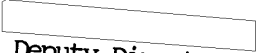
Finally, the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986, P.L. 99-502, authorizes, and Executive Order 12591 directs, that Federal research entities implement strong programs to achieve efficient technology transfer through direct interactions between Federal and industrial scientists and engineers. Insertion of an intermediary information agency between the Federal R&D agencies and the industries that transform these R&D results into commercialized technological innovations will obstruct effectuation of the intent of P.L. 99-502 and Executive Order 12591. The new Federal Technology Transfer Act and implementing Executive Order should be given time to function before this intended modus operandi is disrupted by a new process involving a new agency.

The Office of Management and Budget advises there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**  
**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20503

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

  
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